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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1711

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/944,423 Confirmation No. 1184
Applicant (s) : Robert J. Donald et al
Filed : August 31, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1711
Examiner : Jeffrey Mullis
Title : COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING HYDROGENATED BLOCK
COPOLYMERS AND END-USE APPLICATIONS THEREOF
Docket No. : 44652C
Customer No. : 00109

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed 6 October 2003. Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 12-22 are pending in this Application. Claims 15-22 are withdrawn from consideration and Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 12-14 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hoeg et al. (U.S. Patent 3,598,886).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks that follow. Applicants also request entry of the amendments as they believe the amendments place the Application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicants make the proposed amendments now, rather than earlier, because they contend that the language as previously amended is sufficiently clear that a skilled artisan understands that the additional polymer

lacks hydrogenation. They also add the language to respond to the Examiner's observation that the claims do not exclude hydrogenation of the "additional polymer".

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 8.